

App. No. 09/556,279

Amendment dated February 2, 2004

Reply to final Office action of December 1, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 were pending in the application. Claims 1-10, 16-44, 46 and 47 are rejected. Claims 11-15 and 45 are objected to. Claims 1, 10, 12, 13, 21, 26, 2932, 33, 36, 39, 44 and 46 have been amended. Claims 9, 11, 34, 35, 43 and 45 have been cancelled. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-33, 36-42, 44, 46 and 47 are currently pending. No new matter has been added.

Objection of Claim 26

Claim 26 is objected to because "zero or more" has no clear meaning. Applicants have amended Claim 26 as per the suggestion stated in the Office Action to correct the informality.

Rejection of Claims 1-9, 16-44, 46 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9, 16-44, 46 and 47 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,477,150 issued to *Maggenti*. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 11 which are allowable. Claim 1, as amended, teaches "receiving a message from the device over the shared media; comparing information associated with the device included in the message to information associated with devices in an acquired device table...; and adding information associated with the device to an announced device table if the information is not stored in the acquired device table and the device is unacquired..."

As stated in the Office Action with reference to Claims 11 and 45, *Maggenti* does not disclose "receiving a message from the device over the shared media; comparing information associated with the device included in the message to information associated with devices in an acquired device table; and adding information associated with the device to an announced device table if the information is not stored in the acquired device table and the device is unacquired." Thus, *Maggenti* does not anticipate nor make obvious Applicants' Claim 1, as amended. Applicants therefore submit that Claim 1, as amended, is proposed to be allowable and notice to that effect is solicited.

App. No. 09/556,279

Amendment dated February 2, 2004

Reply to final Office action of December 1, 2003

Claim 21 is directed to a method of communication, Claim 26 is directed to a system for supporting communication, Claim 39 is directed to a computer-readable medium, and Claim 46 is directed to a system for implementing a network of devices connected to a shared media. Claims 21, 26, 39 and 46, as amended, include substantially the same limitations as independent Claim 1. As stated above, Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable. Therefore, independent Claims 21, 26, 39 and 46 are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent Claim 1, and notice to that effect is solicited.

Claims 2-8, 10, 16-20, 22-25, 27-33, 36-38, 40-42, 44, and 47 are dependent on allowable base claims and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 21, 26, 39 and 46 are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-15 and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As stated in the Office Action, Claims 11-15 and 45 include limitations that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As stated above, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable limitations recited in Claim 11. Claims 12-15 have been amended to depend on Claim 1 which is proposed to be allowable. Thus, claims 12-15 are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable, and notice to that effect is solicited.


App. No. 09/556,279
Amendment dated February 2, 2004
Reply to final Office action of December 1, 2003

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, pending Claims 1-8, 10, 12-33, 36-42, 44, 46 and 47 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated above and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

MERCHANT & GOULD
P.O. Box 2809
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
206.342.46200
JJF/ab


Timothy P. Sullivan
Registration No. 47,981
Direct Dial: 206.342.6254

27488

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE